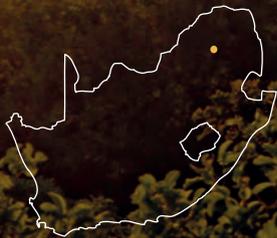


GLAMP IT UP!

Not everyone enjoys making camp. And then there's the bother of packing everything up again... If you're that kind of person, here are five "glamping" options for a camping holiday without the hassle.

WORDS & PICTURES ESMA MARNEWICK



Shakila Tented Camp, near Modimolle

The reception office at Shakila Private Game Reserve is generally a bit shabby, but don't let appearances put you off. The glory days of the tented camp might have faded, but things are clean, neat and cosy. It's as if your tent has been decorated by your granny: mismatched rugs, crochet doilies on the bedside tables, ball-and-claw chairs... Each tent has all the basics you might need, plus a few unexpected luxuries like an outdoor shower with hot water, and a hot tub with a bushveld view! (For the less adventurous, there's also a standard bathroom.)

The accommodation is a mix of stone and canvas, with a wooden deck high against an outcrop. The tents are secluded and each sleeps six to eight people. It's a great destination for a weekend getaway with friends – sit around the fire pit in the lapa until the early hours, solving the world's problems...

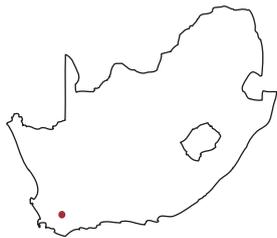
While you're there, the owner of the reserve, Theunis Kruger, is bound to drop by. He has lived in the area for 31 years and is sure to tell you a good yarn, like this one: Apparently the Voortrekkers confused Kranskop nearby for the pyramids in Egypt. That's why they named the nearby river Groot-Nylrivier... **Niggles?** There are stands for sale in the reserve, so you might hear the sounds of building.

Rates: Six-sleeper tent from R760 per night for two people, plus R240 per extra adult and R130 per extra child. (There's also a one-off booking fee of R50.)

Where? About 18 km south-west of Modimolle via the R101.

Contact: ☎ 014 161 0724; 🌐 shakila.co.za

TAKE FIVE TENTED CAMPS



AfriCamps, Robertson

Look around: The hills of the Langeberg are crowded so closely together it's as if they're jostling for space. And you're right in the middle of it all, coffee in hand, on the wooden deck of your safari tent.

AfriCamps has hit upon a nice concept: They build trendy self-catering tented camps in established reserves and on guest farms. This one is in Pat Busch Mountain Reserve near Robertson.

There's white linen on the bed and fresh wildflowers in a vase on the table. There's air conditioning for hot days and a fireplace and electric blankets for chilly evenings.

At sunrise, pull on your hiking boots and explore the slopes on one of three trails of varying difficulty – there's a hiking booklet in the tent. You can also paddle on the farm dam or swim in the pool. Spread your towel on the lawn and watch the sun as it moves through the sky. Make sure you're back on that deck for sunset as the last rays disappear behind the mountains.

Niggles? The work surface in the kitchen is minuscule. The only space for the drying rack, for example, is on the dining table.

Rates: Five-sleeper tent from R1 140 per night for two people, plus R200 per extra person and R100 per extra child.

Where? About 17 km north-east of Robertson on the Klaasvoogds West road.

Contact: ☎ 063 170 4222; 🌐 africamps.com

What else? There are AfriCamps near Oudtshoorn, Stanford, Hazyview, Swellendam, Plett and Wilderness.